

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear FCC Commissioners:

I offer my support of the AT&T-BellSouth merger and urge your approval. As publisher of the Baton Rouge Business Report, I have been following the developments of the past few days. I believe this merger will serve the public interest and greatly benefit customers of the combined company.

The commitments that AT&T recently announced for much greater broadband affordability and availability can be beneficial to growing small businesses and starting entrepreneurs – as well as every citizen. Access to broadband is essential to being competitive in business, staying informed and being connected to the world via technology. Approval of the merger will address this critical need by offering affordable service to everyone.

I have learned that AT&T has proposed to the Commission a commitment to provide its dial access customers a free upgrade to DSL, including a free modem, for a limited time after the merger closing. I also understand the company has offered to reduce the price of residential broadband DSL to \$10 per month and to deliver broadband to all residential units in its combined territory, including lower-income and rural areas. These commitments will help drive high-speed broadband usage and help close the digital divide between rich and poor, urban and rural.

I ask the Commission to approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth promptly so that consumers can benefit as soon as possible from the broadband provisions this merger offers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rolfe McCollister Jr  
Publisher  
Baton Rouge Business Report

cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary